

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Capitol's Vietnam memorial will open for visitors on July 4

The Vietnam War Memorial at Utah's Capitol will reopen temporarily for the July Fourth weekend. Much of the grounds around the building have been closed during reconstruction of the 91-year-old building, including the southwest section where the memorial stands. On Memorial Day, many veterans found the statue and monument with fallen Utah soldiers' names fenced off. After fielding complaints from veterans and their families, state construction contractor Jacobsen-Hunt has filled in a hole, laid sod and built a temporary wheelchair-accessible pathway to the site. "I really felt pretty guilty when I heard about it. I regret we couldn't keep it open for them," said superintendent Dave Marshall, himself a Vietnam veteran. "We wanted to do what we could for July Fourth." After Monday, the memorial will close again. Originally, the southwest grounds were scheduled to reopen in 2008. The construction schedule has been shifted so the west Capitol grounds will be completed in October, allowing the memorial to be open for Veterans Day.

Article Last Updated: 07/02/2005 01:48:40 AM